

UNION TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING 9/8/09

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Present were Bill Harclerode, Michelle McBride, John Winger, Chuck Neary, Chuck La Tournous, and Steve Hurford. Kathleen Corcoran was absent.

July Minutes – not completed yet due to being unable to access the CD.

Old Business:

Sustainable New Jersey (Chuck La Tournous)– will now be a UTEC subcommittee. Skip Jonas went over the action items necessary to earn points. Many could be fulfilled that are non-controversial. Our goal is 100 points for certification. Chuck La Tournous said this would give access to grant money. This would also be a good way to improve quality of life. UTEC's resolution to start a Sustainable NJ initiative was presented to the Township Committee and approved, Chuck La Tournous will lead this project. The Green Team will be part of the UTEC as a subcommittee. Township Committee needs to approve the Green Team members. The Green Team along with UTEC will look at the action items and bring before the Commission. Chuck LaTournous needs a signed copy of Resolution that was passed to send to Sustainable New Jersey. They want to know if we are willing to share our documentation with other municipalities.

Recycling - Michele McBride advised that the disposition of state recycling rebates was on hold, because the funds that we have accumulated may need to be used to help pay for shared County recycling initiatives. The 2008 and 2009 grant money may therefore go to the County. There are state regulations as to how the money can be used. This subject will be removed from future agendas.

Trails – Recreation committee member Scott Eichlin will join this subcommittee. Approval is needed from NJDEP when making modifications to Green Acres land. Trail map for Finn Road Park outlining the proposed trail was forwarded to Peter Jost, Esq on September 8, along with a request from Michele for Peter to review the proposed trail use. No approval from NJDEP is necessary for an existing use. Mayor Dzuibek will coordinate with the township's liability insurance carrier to determine if changes to the township's coverage are needed.

Inspections – The Scheuing property, Township Committee is now handling this.

Local Farm Market Directory – Bill Harclerode forwarded names of all local markets to the county.

Highlands - Bill forwarded letter to both cochair of the Highlands Coalition

Pilot: Bill Harclerode advised they will now be installing a water treatment plant instead of septic system.

Truck Transfer Station – Bill Harclerode noted there is discussion going on in Bloomsbury regarding approval for a large truck transfer station. Citizens are quite upset.

NJ Shade Tree Federation – Bill Harclerode advised they are having a meeting October 23 -25. There are grants available for \$3,000.00 to get started.

Correspondence:

Highlands Applications Notices – Strotz Road and Molnar Site Plan.

New Ordinance – The Township Counsel approved a new ordinance for FEMA regarding methods of reducing flood losses.

New Business:

Municipal Stormwater Permit Renewal (Michele) – environmental alert effective 3/1/09. NJDEP has changed the renewal process. It will no longer be enough to have stormwater education meetings. They now work on a points system. Engineer Kevin Smith does the paperwork for the permit. He was not notified that UTEC had held the necessary stormwater meetings. An e-mail was sent to Smith questioning what needs to be done and when. A brochure has to be sent out at the Township's expense.

Storm Drains – NJDEP now mandates that all storm drains be labeled “this drain discharges to stream”.

Exxon Station – Steve Hurford saw a Notice in the Star Ledger regarding the former service station (now Patrick's Automotive) regarding water and test wells. We will request a current report from them.

Busy Bee – Someone will contact the Zoning Officer to see if the new lights are in accordance with the zero cut-off law.

Chairman's Report:

UTEC found someone to act as liaison between UTEC and the schools. PTA president Lisa Coster has volunteered.

John Winger advised Lisa Coster wants to do a fundraiser and sell rock salt. Does UTEC have any recommendations for the type of salt?

Bill Harclerode has gotten several calls from homeowners about dead deer in front of their homes. The Municipal Clerk can handle this. There is an official form to fill out. The Township applies to the county on behalf of the resident.

Subcommittee Reports:

Open Space – Chuck Neary is waiting to hear from Sandy. They are at a standstill because of easements, detention ponds, should we be inspecting them? A list is to be drawn up using the Township maps as a starting point. John Winger and Josh Boyle volunteered to help Chuck with this. List of environmental easements will contain type of easement, block and lot, and subdivision name. We should benchmark with Clinton Township or Town of Clinton. Kathy Cocoran (UTEC PLanning Board rep) should be contacted.

Property Stewardship:

Hoffman Property – Michele McBride stated we are awaiting input from the County on the Hoffman House RFP. We have sent several reminders with no response. John Trontis, Director of Parks and Recreation thinks it's a good program. Mayor Pat Dzuibek will approach the freeholders to move forward.

Douglass Farm – The Planning Board Resolution was approved unanimously to preserve the Douglas Farm and to allow one additional home site on the 100 acre property. Not yet voted on by the Township Committee.

Milligan Farm – No report. Have not heard anything regarding approval of the trail grant.

Planning Board Report:

Beylickian Echo – unit approved with some restrictions.

Douglass Farm – variance to allow second building with restrictions.

Fallone - granted a one year extension.

St. Catherine's Church – Present plan to extend parking lot with separate entrance and exit.

Transportation/Traffic:

Route 78 – Bill Harclerode advised low noise pavement is in. Now need to work on unmuffled truck braking.

Communications:

Michele McBride suggested the next newsletter be devoted to the Sydney Brook Study. NJDEP must approve article before it can be published by UTEC. The next newsletter to be printed in Jan/Feb 2010.

Dr. Souza plans to present at the October meeting. Bill Harclerode will verify what he will be presenting (Sidney Brook Water Assessment Characterization report).

Highlands – Next meeting this Thursday. The Township Committee granted an extension to opt-in.

Remind residents if they want to preserve part of their land UTEC will talk to them about it.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:35 by John Wingler and seconded by Steve Hurford.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Neary

